

World War II. After returning a hero, Gerry turned to his education and entered St. John's University where he was honored as an All-American basketball player. Upon graduation, Gerry continued playing on the hardwood with the National Basketball Association's Syracuse Nationals. However, his true vocation of stewardship to the people of his community was just around corner.

After retiring from the NBA, Mr. Calabrese was elected to the Cliffside Park Borough Council in 1955. In 1959 he was elected to his first term as the Borough's Mayor. And since 1965, he has served continuously as Cliffside Park's chief executive. His final term will expire in 1999. During his tenure, he has opened the Mayor's office to local men and women empowering them to become active in the political process and establishing a level of constituent service previously unparalleled in Northern New Jersey. Not stopping there, he also served on the Bergen County Board of Freeholders from 1975 to 1985 (functioning as its chairman in 1984), as Bergen County Democratic Chairman from 1991 to 1998, the New Jersey delegation to the National Democratic Convention in 1988 and 1992, on the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities from 1960 to 1987 (retiring as Director of Water and Sewage for the State of New Jersey), and on the 1992 New Jersey Congressional Re-Districting Committee.

A beloved father and grandfather, Gerry Calabrese has earned the respect of men and women of all political parties and all walks of life. In reflection of his time of service, he has been honored by local chapters of UNICO, B'nai B'rith, the Police Benevolent Association, the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police, the Polish American Democratic Club, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, the Elks Lodge, and the Amvets. It will be difficult to imagine Bergen County without him as one of our most revered and respected mayors. Cliffside Park's next Mayor will have enormous shoes to fill when Mayor Calabrese leaves the office he has held for forty years. As this chapter of Gerry's life comes to an end, I wish him, his wife Marion, and his children and grandchildren, all the very best for a long, happy, and healthy retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. GEORGE
F. HAMM

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 22, 1998

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a close friend, dedicated educator and great American, Dr. George F. Hamm, President of the University of Texas at Tyler, who is retiring this month following an illustrious tenure of seventeen years. Having known George throughout that time, I have had the opportunity to observe his professional accomplishments, which are considerable, and to witness the impact that he has had on higher education in East Texas. His accomplishments were not unilateral, however, for he always had his lovely and intelligent and talented wife, Jane, at his side. Theirs was a partnership that forged a plan for UT Tyler.

George has been engaged in higher education administration and teaching since 1962,

including a distinguished career in student services administration at Arizona State University prior to coming to the University of Texas at Tyler. Since being named President in 1981, Dr. Hamm has provided unmatched leadership and vision to the University. In 1982, Dr. Hamm achieved the first of a long line of accomplishments, when the University surpassed the 2,000 student enrollment mark for the first time. In 1983, under Dr. Hamm's guidance, a master's degree program in public planning and administration was established. This master's program was just the first significant expansion of educational opportunities for East Texans through the addition of numerous programs at the bachelors' and graduate levels. Just a few of the graduate programs established under Dr. Hamm's direct supervision include: teaching, English, mathematics, engineering and biology. Again in 1983, UT Tyler hit another enrollment milestone, as it passed the 3,000 student plateau.

In 1984, as a direct result of Dr. Hamm's ability to further the University's stature, Texas voters added UT Tyler as a beneficiary of Texas' Permanent University Fund. In 1986, Dr. Hamm was awarded the Arizona State University Centennial Medallion, as a "Man Ahead of His Times", for providing equal educational opportunities for minorities. Then in 1990, with the University's reputation and popularity growing by leaps and bounds, UT Tyler awarded its 10,000th academic degree. Never ceasing, Dr. Hamm's vision led to the implementation of an interactive video instruction program in 1991. This state-of-the-art technology enables students in several cities to save time and money while pursuing their educational goals. In 1996, President Hamm received the International Distinguished Service Award from Sister Cities International.

Finally, after years of hard work and dedication, in 1997, the Texas Legislature approved the University of Texas at Tyler as a four-year institution, and in 1998 UT Tyler's first freshman class was accepted for admission. Also in 1997, the Texas Legislature approved development of a UT Tyler campus in Longview and UT Tyler was selected for \$6.9 million U.S.-Ukraine Community Partnerships for Training and Education Project.

After seventeen years of unparalleled leadership and vision, Dr. George F. Hamm will retire as President of the University of Texas at Tyler on June 30, 1998. As President of UT Tyler, Dr. Hamm dedicated his intellect, talents and energy to build a first-rate educational institution in East Texas. His goals were for many years elusive dreams, but thanks to his vision, perseverance and leadership, these dreams have become reality.

It has been an honor and a privilege to work with George during these past seventeen years, and I will be forever grateful for the guidance and friendship he has offered me and for all that he has accomplished for Tyler and East Texas.

Mr. Speaker, when we adjourn today's session, let us do so in honor of and respect for this great American.

TRIBUTE IN MEMORY OF U.S.
REPRESENTATIVE BILL EMERSON

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 22, 1998

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the memory of U.S. Representative Bill Emerson. On this, the second anniversary of Bill's passing, I thought that I would share with all of you the story of "Billy" Emerson. I recently wrote the following as my weekly column so that I could share these very special memories with some of Bill's closest friends and most trusted advisors—the people of the Eighth Congressional District of Missouri.

Graduation Day for our Congressional Pages was just a couple of weeks ago. As we said our fond farewells to those high school juniors who have worked long and hard in the House of Representatives since August 1997, it got me thinking about some of the wonderful stories Bill used to tell when he was a Page back in the 83rd Congress. As many of you know, Bill's first interest in having a career in government came as a result of his experience as a Page, and it was this knowledge and love for the Congress that made him such a valuable part of the institution.

I'd like to share with you the "Billy" Emerson story—the story of how Bill became a Page in the first place.

Bill's Grandpa, W.G. "Bill" Reinemer, was for many years a local elected official in Jefferson County, Bill's home county, and lived with Bill and his mother after Bill's Grandmother died. Grandpa Reinemer was a tremendous influence in Bill's life, and Bill tagged alongside him to every political rally and event Grandpa attended. In 1952, the year General Eisenhower was running for President, Bill decided that he had to help elect "Ike" as President and did everything from manning telephones to stuffing envelopes to making speeches for him. At the same time, Grandpa promised Bill that if Ike won the presidency that he, Bill, could go to Washington for the General's Inauguration. You can imagine how that gave Bill even more incentive to do everything possible to ensure that Ike won the election!

During the campaign, Bill happened to be reading a Boys' State publication, which had a story about being a Page in Congress. This gave Bill another idea. Perhaps if he could become a Page, then he could go to Washington to help Ike run the country. So, Bill wrote letters to every Member of the House of Representatives and Senate, asking if he could be their Page. Many rejections came primarily because Bill wasn't from the same state as these Members, except for one. And the one partially positive letter he did receive came from Congressman Tom Curtis of St. Louis. Congressman Curtis told Bill that if Ike won the election and if the Republicans took control of Congress, then it might be possible that Curtis could appoint Bill as his Page. While there was an awful lot of "ifs" and "mights" in the letter, Bill was not discouraged and was hopeful that he might get the appointment.

However, once the election was over and Ike won, Bill still hadn't heard from Curtis. And it came time for him to go to Washington, as Grandpa had promised, for the Inauguration.